



**Hoosier Heartland Adoption Newsletter**  
**\*\*\* Serving adoptive families in Indiana \*\*\***  
**Volume 1 Issue 4**

In this issue: Welcome, Noteworthy News, an Adoption Story, FYI, Hold these dates, Support Groups, and Resources for parents and educators!!

**Welcome!**

Thank you so much for all of your responses to the newsletter and for your dedication to “our” children. Please try to spread the word that **we are only available online** unless your county office elects to send a hardcopy. Check us out at: [www.adoptachild.in.gov](http://www.adoptachild.in.gov) - **click on Permanency and then Adoption. There will be a link to the newsletter there.**

This has been a year of getting to know the needs of adoptive parents and we have begun to help link families with services around the state. We offered free training opportunities, too, in all of the “super regions” and hope to continue to serve all of you each day. I learn “something new every day” from all of you and we need to continue sharing our stories, trials, and tribulations so we can support one another in a way that is best for the children we love. There is plenty of room for growth, and I look forward to working with the providers and parents to make our post-adoptive services meet your needs.

**Noteworthy News**

IFCAA and the Special Needs Adoption Program, will be hosting a large spring **Heart Gallery** on **April 12th, 2008** (Sat.) from 11:00 to 2:00 at the **Crossroads Community Church** in **Kokomo**. The event will include a speaker and will feature waiting children from all over the state. Refreshments will be provided. Please consider being a part of this important gathering - “our” waiting children will be glad you did!

Dawn Cooper who gave us the great information about college bound youth in the last newsletter was invited to Washington, D.C. with her daughters to accept an award from President Bush at the White house. Here is her re-cap of the event:

**National Adoption Day 2007**  
**Washington, D.C. Style!!!!!!**

Awesome, splendid, breath-taking, awe-inspiring...the list goes on. Chosen to be the recipient of the President’s Volunteer Service Award and visiting the White House was all of that and more.

We not only received this humbling award, but we realized that we were privy to a part of history that few will ever see. We met White House staff, walked the halls of the White House, and saw President and Laura Bush make remarks on the importance of adoption in this country.

The 400+ volunteer service hours we did in 2007 was not thought of as “work” for our family. We did not sit down and strategically plan how or who we would help. It just evolved. When people or organizations had a need we stepped in and helped. In fact, when we were asked to document our volunteer hours I was astonished at the number of hours we had completed. I was a bit disappointed when I broke the good news of our award to the girls because they did not get excited. They felt that if we were given this opportunity surely it was nothing special—they did not see the hours we volunteered as anything out of the norm. It was not until they told their teachers and administrators at school the next day that they began to realize just how special this opportunity was.

The trip was all expense paid by AdoptUsKids and we were pampered the entire time in Washington, D.C. But, the greatest gift came on our return home. A teacher approached my daughter and stated that she would like to adopt a child. Today, she and her husband are going through classes to make that a reality. Never in my wildest dreams would I have ever thought that an “average” family from Indiana would be selected to receive such an outstanding award that would have life-changing impacts on others....wow, what a blessing!

Editor’s note: Thank you Dawn for the inspiring message!!

### [An Adoption Story](#)

I would like to share with you the child I now call my daughter. I have two married children Patrick, age 34, and Nicole, age 30, along with three grandchildren named Sami, Josh, and Katie. After everyone moved out you would think I would like the quiet. Hardly! I hated it! I went looking for another child who needed me. Don't get me wrong Pat and Nikki love me, but they had their new lives too. On August 18, 2001, I became a foster mother to a three year old little girl by the name of Faith. A year later, on July 2, 2002, I adopted Faith, and, she had lots to overcome. Both of her biological parents were in prison and her home life had not been then best.

Do you know what turned things around for Faith? A tea cup! That's right a tea cup. I gave her an adoption party in a tea house. And, her life as we knew it took on new meaning.

Faith collects tea cups from all over the world. Mayors, State Senators, Supreme Court Judges and people from all over the world have sent her cups. Her collection has over 100 cups now! Faith has exhibited her cups in children wards at hospitals, coffee shops, libraries and museums. There are newspaper stories about Faith's tea cups and this remarkable young girl who has come so far since her adoption. She has also been “taken” by the work of Jerry Lewis for the last five years and she helps with MDA now.

Faith was so amazed by what the Firefighters do for him that she now makes home-made cards, visits, and feeds twelve firehouses each Labor Day. Many of the firemen know her on a first name basis when she is out and about town. Faith has been a blessing to her family and serves her fellow man in ways beyond her age.

### **FYI!!!!**

We have had many inquiries about same-sex adoptions in Indiana. The precedence was set many years ago, originally in Monroe County, and the names of both adoptive parents may appear on the Petition to Adopt. This is important because it saves the court and the family a second “appearance” allowing the second parent to adopt the child, and, if something would happen to the “single parent” before the court date would occur the child would be “orphaned” again. Step-parents worry about the same issues. It is important for our children to have both the parent’s names on their birth certificate too, for school and other legal matters.

**Chase Bank** is a proud supporter of the **Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption** and they are offering a new program it is called the Chase New Addition Program it allows for a home equity line of credit specifically designed with the need of prospective adoptive parents. Low rates, generous line amounts, payment flexibility and an account VISA card are part of the benefits. Our Special Needs Adoption Program works with the Dave Thomas Foundation through the representatives for Wendy’s Wonderful Kids. Lana Elliot works in the Ft. Wayne area and can be reached at: [lelliot@villages.org](mailto:lelliot@villages.org); Annette Lofton is in Indianapolis [alofton@childrensbureau.org](mailto:alofton@childrensbureau.org)

TeenCentral.net is a website sponsored by KidsPeace, a network where teens can connect with others from around the country and the world. It offers problem-solving resources and according to the information serves as a place for teens to: “tell your story, hear from peers about their situations much like your own, find books, movies and places where you can turn for help, develop confidence and learn about celebrities who have experienced similar situations.” Go to [www.teencentral.net](http://www.teencentral.net) to log on...it is “totally anonymous totally cool.”

### **Hold These Dates!!!!**

**Adoption Forum:** September 18 -19, 2008 Marten House, Indianapolis, IN go to [www.IAACCS.com](http://www.IAACCS.com) for more information. This is the 36<sup>th</sup> year for this conference!!

**IARRCA:** This annual conference will take place September 17-19, 2008 at the Hilton North. Brochures will be available around August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**IFCAA:** Mid -November 2008 at the Marten House in Indianapolis. This is the 36<sup>th</sup> year for this conference!!

### **Adoption Support Groups:**

A note from the Heritage Support Group: Hello Everyone and Happy New Year! I am excited that we finally have our email working for our website [www.hfasi.org](http://www.hfasi.org) We would like to invite everyone to our newly scheduled monthly meetings to be held the 3rd Thursday of every month, beginning January 17th, at the Plainfield Library from 6 to 8 p.m. We will have a pitch-in dinner first and then, the adults will meet, while the kids participate in planned activities. Anyone who would like to volunteer for helping to supervise children's activities, including older teenagers, would be welcome. I plan to ask if we can get some volunteers from IUPUI who can be cleared through DCS to help out with the children's activities.

Please email or call (765/650-8276) me to let me know if you plan to attend or have any questions. The Library has generously agreed to let us meet for the next six months, so this will be a trial period for this time slot. We can change it later if it turns out not to work! I am so excited for the meeting, and to visit with everyone and their families!

See you soon! Stephanie Kerner Heritage Foster/Adoption Support Inc.

We also have a contact in the Bloomington area who is interested in forming a support/advocacy group there, please email me at [ann.arvidson@dcs.in.gov](mailto:ann.arvidson@dcs.in.gov) if you would like your name added to the list of interested people.

If you have information about other groups that we have not mentioned contact Ann Arvidson at [ann.arvidson@dcs.in.gov](mailto:ann.arvidson@dcs.in.gov) or 317-234-4500. **SUPPORT is VITAL!!!** I know there are more out there – please tell us where and when you meet and any contact information.

Also, it is possible to form “informal” supports for your family. We meet at the same Chinese restaurant every Friday at 6:30 and have formed a group that includes foster and adoptive parents, single mothers, and some retired and “working” DCS and agency staff who drop by occasionally knowing we are always there. They are as important to my family as our monthly Delaware County group. The fellowship, fun, and support is wonderful!!! The kids love it too.

#### **Resources:**

##### **Websites:**

[www.adoptachild.in.gov](http://www.adoptachild.in.gov) Heartland Newsletter: click on Permanency, then adoption, and then, Newsletter. To reach a local SNAP Specialist: click on: What can your SNAP Specialist do for you? **Providers for post adoptive services are listed on this site!**

[www.ThinkingOfAdopting.com](http://www.ThinkingOfAdopting.com) offers adoption telecourses and webinars on attachment and other issues. Some are of interest for international adoptions, but many of the strategies are the same with special needs adoptions too.

##### **Resources for Educator’s who work daily with adopted children:**

Adoption Awareness in School Assignments, a guide for parents and educators: by Christine Mitchell. A great resource for you child’s school. This pamphlet was prepared in connection with Tapestry Books, specializing in adoption books • [www.tapestrybooks.com](http://www.tapestrybooks.com) • 877-266-5406 • [info@tapestrybooks.com](mailto:info@tapestrybooks.com)

Christine lists other resources in this manual:

*Adoption and the Schools: Resources for Parents and Teachers*, by FAIR, Families Adopting in Response, [info@fairfamilies.org](mailto:info@fairfamilies.org), [www.fairfamilies.org](http://www.fairfamilies.org).

*Family Tree and Other Projects*, AdoptionClubHouse.com, Homework Help, [http://www.adoptionclubhouse.org/03\\_homework/04\\_familytree/00\\_overview.html](http://www.adoptionclubhouse.org/03_homework/04_familytree/00_overview.html).

*Adoption Awareness in Our Schools*, The Center for Adoptive Families, a project of Adoptions Together (AT), [caf@adoptionstogether.org](mailto:caf@adoptionstogether.org); or [www.adoptionstogether.org](http://www.adoptionstogether.org).

*S.A.F.E. at School: Support for Adoptive Families by Educators*, The Center for Adoption Support and Education, Inc. (CASE), [schoettle@erols.com](mailto:schoettle@erols.com); or [www.adoptionssupport.org](http://www.adoptionssupport.org).

*Teacher’s Guide to Adoption*, Family Helper, [helper@familyhelper.net](mailto:helper@familyhelper.net), [www.familyhelper.net](http://www.familyhelper.net)  
*An Educator’s Guide to Adoption*, Institute for Adoption Information  
<http://adoptioninformationinstitute.org/education.html>